



Governor Terry E. Branstad
Lt. Governor Kim Reynolds
San Wong, Director

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

January 5, 2016

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**Gov. Terry Branstad to Join Iowans in Celebrating
Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.**

Public ceremony on Monday, January 18, 2016

DES MOINES – Governor Terry Branstad will participate in the State of Iowa celebration honoring the life and legacy of the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. on Monday, January 18, 2016. The annual event is hosted by the Iowa Department of Human Rights' Office on the Status of African Americans and begins at 10:45 a.m. at the Greater Des Moines Botanical Garden, 909 Robert D. Ray Drive in Des Moines.

Governor Branstad will provide welcoming comments and issue a proclamation designating the day Martin Luther King Jr. Day and the period of January 17 – 23 Martin Luther King Jr. Week.

The Honorable Odell G. McGhee, Iowa District Court Judge, will provide the keynote speech. Judge McGhee is one of five African American judges appointed in the history of the State of Iowa. He has a special interest in young people and equal justice for all under the law.

Students from the North High School Soul Gospel Choir and Nzuri Children's Dance Theater from Waterloo will perform. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Achievement Awards will be presented to Dr. Angela Walker Franklin of Des Moines and Keyah Levy of Waterloo. Winners of the 6th annual Martin Luther King Call 2 Serve contest for youth will also be honored.

This event is free and open to the public. For more information, or if you need special accommodations, please contact: Iowa Department of Human Rights, Office on the Status of African Americans, Lucas State Office Building, Des Moines, IA 50319, at (515) 281-3274 or toll-free (800) 351-4659 by Friday, January 15, 2016.

What: Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration
When: Monday, January 18, 2016
Time: 10:45 AM
Where: Greater Des Moines Botanical Garden
909 Robert D. Ray Drive
Des Moines, IA

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